

USSR AREA PROGRAM

1. I feel that an area program is a valuable contribution, but in a modified form. I believe the students should be expected to know the area or acquire knowledge of the area (suggested reading list) so that the history prior to World War II can be dispensed with, except perhaps in a general, introductory way. The emphasis should be on current trends and developments in all fields - domestic political and economic affairs, foreign policy, military policy, economic planning, etc. There is so much to cover that a program that begins with earlier periods of history results in too general and superficial a coverage.

2. This particular program was not especially useful to me because I was an alternate. I obtained some enjoyment from the lectures I attended but not much lasting instruction. As an alternate my attendance was a pleasant interlude.

3. (a) The content and the scope of the subject matter was too general although relevant as background.

(b) The lecture method is good. The question periods are wasteful because there are always certain individuals who dominate a discussion with questions and comments designed to propound their own pet theories or to substantiate their own positions on U.S. foreign policy in the cold war.

(c) Time allotted is adequate or not, depending on content or scope of course. For the type of course given the time was inadequate. Two hours for each session is satisfactory for the type of course I recommend in 1 above.

(d) I feel that discussion should be kept to a minimum for the reasons given in 3b above.

4. I believe students should be required to do collateral reading, but not be required to prepare papers. The preparation of papers would be too time consuming whereas reading would not, and also reading could be done at home and without source material such as would be required for a paper.

5. I also believe that students who enter such a program should be required to attend regularly. Alternates are able to get little or no value from their intermittent attendance, but it can be useful for those who wish to attend a lecture on a specific subject of interest.

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